

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Engineering Division
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

August 25, 2006

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Request for Authorization to retain various consultants and governmental agencies for the purpose of conducting surveys, studies, and assessments of dams and reservoirs statewide to determine their current physical integrity, and Authorize the Chairperson to enter into and negotiate agreements with various consultants and government agencies, as directed by Act 118, SLH 2006, relating to Emergency Relief for Natural Disasters.

Chapter 179D of the Hawaii Revised Statutes is entitled the Dam Safety Act of 1987. The purpose of chapter 179D is to provide for the inspection and regulation of construction, operation, and removal of certain dams in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State by reducing the risk of failure of such dams. Chapter 179D empowers the Board of Land and Natural Resources, among other things, to cooperate with the United States government or any of its agencies in carrying out the chapter and to enter upon such private property of the dam or reservoir as may be necessary in conducting investigations and inspections of the dams or reservoirs.

Due to recent incidents involving failure of dams and reservoirs on the Island of Kauai, the State Legislature passed Act 118 of SLH 2006, which authorized 5 million dollars for the purpose of conducting surveys, studies, and assessments of dams and reservoirs statewide to determine their current physical integrity.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Land and Natural Resources approve the following:

1. Request and Authorize various consultants and governmental agencies to conduct surveys, studies, and assessments of dams and reservoirs statewide to determine their current physical integrity and authorize their agents, employees, and consultants, to enter upon private property for the purposes of investigating, installing, operating and maintaining gages and related equipment, conducting inspections and hydrologic and hydraulic calculations on and around dams and reservoirs located within the State of Hawaii and related dam safety work pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 179D.
2. Authorize and direct the Chairperson, to negotiate and execute support agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other documents and agreements as needed to facilitate assistance from various consultants and government agencies.

Respectfully submitted,


ERIC T. HIRANO
Chief Engineer

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:


PETER T. YOUNG, Chairperson

ITEM L-1